

Douglas S. Freeman Bands

Douglas Southall Freeman High School • 8701 Three Chopt Rd. • Henrico, VA 23229
www.freemanband.org • (804) 282-5460

June 2011

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new year of great music with the Freeman band program! Time will sail by this summer and before we know it, Band Camp will be upon us. This letter contains a lot of important information, so please read it carefully and review all of the information in our Band Camp Essentials area of our website as soon as possible. I hope you can take a few minutes on the first morning of full Band Camp, Monday, August 15th, to stop in and say hello from 8-8:30am. Students, you will start at 8 am *sharp*!

The Band Camp Staff, most of whom the returning students already know, is well under way preparing the 2011 Rebel Brigade Field Show. This year's show is entitled "Blue and Gray" and features music from the American Civil War. Our website, www.freemanband.org, will soon have the music available for you to download. Music was handed out at the end of the past school year, however, if you don't have it, keep checking the site and, when available, download the music and start familiarizing yourself with the music. **Section Leaders and Captains should have all of the music memorized by the start of Band Camp!** I am happy to announce that the drill for this year's show is almost complete! Everyone's role in this band is equally important, both musically and visually. The calendar for the year is also being updated. For the fall, we will play at all home football games, several away games, one clinic and at least three competitions.

Band Camp will be held on campus at Freeman. We will be using the outfield area of the baseball field to learn drill and we will be in the band room (and other sections of Green Acres) for music rehearsals. In addition to band camp, we will be having a weekly music rehearsal on Monday evenings (mostly) this summer in the band room. If you are in town, the expectation is that you come to rehearsal. Section Leaders and Drum Majors will be contacting their sections to remind them about these rehearsals throughout the summer.

DSF 2011 Summer Music Rehearsal Schedule:

July 5th - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

July 11th - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

July 25th - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

August 2nd - 6:00pm – 8:00pm

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DSF 2011 Band Camp Schedule:

August 8th & 9th, 9:00am – 3:00pm **Student Leadership days** (only for student leaders)
August 8th – 12th, 9:00am – 3:00pm **Color Guard Camp**
August 10th, 9:00-3:00 – **1st Years, all Percussion, color guard, student leaders**
August 11th, 9:00-3:00 – **1st & 2nd Years, all Percussion, color guard, student leaders**
August 12th, 9:00-3:00 – **1st, 2nd, 3rd Years, all Percussion, color guard, student leaders**
August 15th-19th, 8:00-5:00 – **FULL BAND and Color Guard**
August 22nd – 26th, 8:00-5:00 – **FULL BAND and Color Guard**
August 29th, 5:00pm-8:00pm – **FULL BAND & Color Guard (Post-Camp Rehearsal)**
August 30th – 6:00pm (t) – **Band Picnic and performance**
All Students (Band & Guard) Report at 5:00pm

Note for Freshmen: when reviewing the schedule, you may notice a conflict with the Freeman High School “Rebel Camp” for incoming freshmen which is being held on August 22nd. Band students **will not** be excused to attend this optional event and unexcused absences do reflect in grades. By the time other freshmen will come to Rebel Camp, your band students will already be familiar with Freeman and its campus. We will even arrange a time during Band Camp for our section leaders to give the freshmen in their sections a complete tour of the school, find their homeroom classrooms and answer any other questions that may arise.

As you all know, marching band is an athletic activity and a lot of time is spent outside, beginning with Band Camp. Even though we try to limit our outside time to the mornings when it is cooler, the weather in August will be hot and humid, so to ensure productive rehearsals, some precautions must be taken.

First, appropriate dress is crucial. Students should wear light-colored t-shirts, shorts of appropriate length, hats, sunglasses if desired and comfortable sneakers with socks. **No sandals or flip-flops, and no bare feet!** A water-resistant sunscreen is *strongly* recommended. **Please keep in mind that the dress code stipulated in the Henrico County Code of Conduct does apply!**

Second, what you eat and drink (or don't eat and drink) will directly affect your ability to rehearse, and thus affect the overall band's productivity. The Boosters will provide coolers of water, though all students should bring their own water as well. **Keeping yourself properly hydrated is of utmost importance!** Also, be sure to eat a good breakfast every morning.

All students need to bring their own lunch (lots of fruits and lighter foods). **No one will be allowed to leave school grounds during Band Camp hours.** And again, students should drink plenty of non-carbonated fluids.

Each student must be fully prepared for camp with the following items each day:
Please be sure to have these items on the first day of camp.

1. Instrument and accessories such as reeds, valve oil, etc.
2. Pencil with an eraser
3. Sturdy three-ring binder with sheet protectors and loose-leaf paper
4. Red, White & Blue Poker chips (to help in learning drill)
5. Your music

6. Percussionists should have fully equipped stick bags (see letter from Matt)

We are happy to be able to maintain the fee for Band Camp 2011 at \$150 for all Band and Color Guard students. This partially funds special instructors for each section (not paid for by the County), one Rebel Brigade T-shirt specifically designed for our 2011 field show, drinks provided by the Boosters, and the main course for the picnic.

The Band Camp fee and other forms (available on the website) are due by July 25th, at the summer music rehearsal. There is a payment form which explains a few other fees, such as marching shoes and gloves, if needed, and color guard shoes, gloves and equipment fee, that are due on July 25th as well.

Our transportation fee (which covers the cost of chartered buses to one of our competitions) is due by September 15.

The DSF Band Boosters provide critical funding for our program during the year, as well as volunteer support to make the program happen. Please join this important group and become an active member. The membership form and fees can be included in all your July 25th forms.

All checks should be made payable to "DSF Band Boosters." If you need to mail your check and forms, please send to:

John Jimison, Band Booster Treasurer
8914 Brawner Dr.
Henrico, VA 23229

If payment is not possible by the due date, please call John Jimison at 740-5376 or email johnjim@comcast.net to set up an alternate payment plan. We are always more than willing to be flexible as long as a good faith effort is made. **Anyone who has not paid the Band Camp fee or has not contacted Mr. Jimison will not be permitted to attend camp until this obligation has been met.**

One last note: If you haven't been getting emails from us, please send us your email address ASAP so we can be sure you receive all information available – just send an email to vobrien@vtla.com with your name and the student's name.

Our goal for Band Camp 2011 is to have the show well under way for the performance and picnic **on Tuesday, August 30th at 6:00pm**, so come ready to work hard and be successful. This is going to be a great year!

Musically yours,



Rob Blankenship
Director of Bands

PS: As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the Band Office at 282-5460 or via email at rpblanke@henrico.k12.va.us. You may also contact me through the main office at 673-3700. Please watch our website (www.freemanband.org) for any changes and updates – it is updated regularly even through the summer!